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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Scott Olson/Getty Images

Police move flowers placed at a barricade near the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs on Monday in Texas.

Military failed to tell FBI of gunman's record, allowing him to buy weapons

By Jim Vertuno, Will Weissert and Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas — The gunman who killed 26 people at a small-town Texas church had a history of domestic violence and sent threatening text messages to his mother-in-law, a member of First Baptist, before the attack in which he fired at least 450 rounds at helpless worshippers, authorities said Monday.

A day after the deadliest mass shooting in state history, the military acknowledged that it did not submit the shooter's criminal history to the FBI, as required by the Pentagon. If his past offenses had been properly shared, they would have prevented him from legally buying a gun.

INSIDE
Texas shooting claims pair from Beaver County family, **Page A-4**.

Investigators also revealed that sheriff's deputies had responded to a domestic violence call in 2014 at Devin Kelley's home involving a girlfriend who became his second wife. Later that year, he was formally ousted from the Air Force for a 2012 assault on his ex-wife in which he choked her and struck her son hard enough to fracture his skull.

In Sutherland Springs, population 400, grieving townspeople were reeling from their losses. The dead ranged from 18 months to 77 years old.

Joe and Claryce Holcombe lost children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all at once,

SEE **TEXAS**, PAGE A-4

Religious leaders ponder safety at sanctuary

By Peter Smith
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A gunman's massacre of 26 worshippers at a small Texas church Sunday has sent shock waves through the Pittsburgh area's religious community and renewed soul-searching about security in houses of worship and in the wider society.

"When you're talking about church, your whole reason for being is to be open — to be open to the community, to be open to other parishioners," said the Rev. B. De Neice Welch, pastor of Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church in Manchester.

"A closed church or a secure church is kind of an oxymoron," she said.

Her congregation does take safety steps, such as having men stand at the front doors on Sunday mornings to monitor activity, using buzzer locks on weekdays and getting to know the neighbors so church leaders can better evaluate what might be a threat.

"The tragedy is so unimaginable," she said of Sunday's killings at First Baptist Church of

SEE **SECURITY**, PAGE A-4

Transgender woman files suit against county, jail

Complaint alleges pleas went unheard

By Paula Reed Ward
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Jules Williams was born a boy but began to live openly as female in her teen years.

She began hormone therapy at age 18 and had surgery in 2008 for breast augmentation and to remove her testicles.

Her birth certificate and state-issued identification list her as female.

Yet, when she was housed at the Allegheny County Jail in September 2015 on a theft charge, she was placed in a male holding cell, and even after she requested protective custody, she was placed in a double cell with another male inmate.

For four days, according to a lawsuit she filed Monday against the county and several

SEE **LAWSUIT**, PAGE A-10

Penguins, city reach agreement on Civic Arena site

By Mark Belko and Adam Smeltz
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Penguins will exchange $15 million in credits for land and give up one parcel as part of a tentative agreement with the city that gives the team more time to redevelop the former Civic Arena site.

Under the agreement announced Monday, the team will be required to develop nearly 6.5 acres of the 28 acres by 2020 or forfeit a portion of the parking revenue it now receives, with proceeds being deposited in a fund to finance redevelopment in the Hill District. Most of the site is now devoted to parking, with the Penguins getting all

SEE **ARENA**, PAGE A-6

RIDING OD ROAD

Stephanie Strasburg/Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Police Officer Christine Luffey, right, and her daughter, Katrina, 13, hand out information as people take their seats at the Overbook Crime Watch meeting on Monday at Concord Elementary in Carrick.

Carrick reacts with resolve to confront community's opioid crisis

By Rich Lord
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A city neighborhood hit hard by drug overdoses got a dose of attention, and maybe some hope, Monday night at an emotional meeting in which city and health officials detailed efforts to help curb the opioid crisis in Carrick.

Pittsburgh Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak told a crowd of about 110 that if a state grant comes through, Carrick will get a

SEE **CARRICK**, PAGE A-6

Weather
Cooler with a little rain. Daytime high, 45; tonight's low, 31.
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